

# Transforming Shakespeare's Tragedies: Adaptation, Education, and Diversity

An NEH Summer Institute for Secondary English Teachers



Depending on public health guidelines related to Covid-19, plans for a residential offering are subject to change.

**DATES:** Remote--June 11, 25, and August 20; Residential--July 10-27

**FORMAT:** Hybrid (2.5 weeks residential; 3 remote meetings)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** March 1st, 2022

**PARTICIPANT NOTIFICATION:** March 25th, 2022

**PARTICIPANT ACCEPTANCE DEADLINE:** April 8th, 2022

**STIPEND:** \$2,850

Weber State University invites educators to apply to participate in an NEH Institute on teaching Shakespeare alongside the numerous, diverse, and delightful young adult adaptations of Shakespeare. The institute will take place in beautiful Ogden Utah, where an accomplished faculty of scholars and educators will guide the participants through adaptations of *Othello* and *Hamlet*, including but not limited to: multiple films and filmed stage productions, *Ophelia* by Lisa Klein, *Hamlet the Dame* (webseries), *The Steep and Thorny Way* by Cat Winters, *Elsinore* (video game), *To Be or Not to Be* by Ryan North, *Bloodline* by Joe Jiménez, *Manga Othello*, *Desdemona* by Toni Morrison and Rokia Traoré, *American Moor* by Keith Hamilton Cobb, *Chasing the Stars* by Malorie Blackman, *Speak of me as I am* by Sonia Belasco, *Othello-San* by Theodore A. Adams, and of course, *Hamlet* and *Othello* by William Shakespeare. The Institute will also feature a trip to the Utah Shakespeare Festival to see a production of *King Lear* and participate in a teacher workshop.

**Ready to apply?**

**[Click Here](#)**



# TRANSFORMING SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDIES

## Institute Faculty

### Co-Directors



**Dr. Deborah Uman**

Deborah Uman is Professor of English and Dean of the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities at Weber State University. Noticing that her own kids and her students loved YA lit and often hated Shakespeare, she started integrating adaptations into her Shakespeare courses and encouraging her students to create their own adaptations as well. With co-director Jennifer Flaherty, she is editing the forthcoming book, *Liberating Shakespeare: Adaptation and Empowerment for Young Adult Audience*.



**Dr. Jennifer Flaherty**

Jennifer Flaherty is an Associate Professor of Shakespeare Studies at Georgia College. She co-edited *The Taming of the Shrew: The State of Play* (Bloomsbury Arden, 2021) with Heather C. Easterling. Her research emphasizes adaptation, global Shakespeare, and girlhood, and her publications include chapters in the volumes *Shakespeare and Millennial Fiction* (Cambridge), *Shakespeare and Geek Culture* (Bloomsbury Arden), and *Shakespeare and Global Appropriation* (Routledge). She has also published in journals such as *Borrowers and Lenders*, *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies*, *Comparative Drama*, and *Shakespeare Bulletin*. With co-director Deborah Uman, she is editing the forthcoming book, *Liberating Shakespeare and Empowering Young Adult Audiences*.

## Technology Expert



**Dr. Scott O'Neil**

Scott O'Neil is an Assistant Professor of English at Arkansas Tech University, where he teaches Shakespeare, film, and the English Education Methods course. In addition to being a Shakespeare scholar and an advocate for classroom technology, he is also an award-winning curriculum writer from his years as a high school teacher in Harford County Maryland. Whether he's writing about Shakespeare, performing Shakespeare, or using technology to teach Shakespeare, he's always excited to find something new about these 400+ year old plays (current favorites include the Simpsons Comics Shakespeare issue, the Deadpool Shakespeare issue, and the Romeo and Juliet anime series).

## K-12 Expert



**Mark Miazga**

Mark Miazga has been teaching high school English and coaching Varsity Baseball at Baltimore City College High School, the 3rd oldest public school in the country, for 21 years. A National-Board Certified teacher and the 2014 recipient of the Milken Educator Award for Maryland, Mr. Miazga also works as an adjunct professor in the Urban Teachers Masters program at Johns Hopkins University. He recently co-wrote the Folger Guide to Teaching Macbeth, to be published by Simon & Schuster in 2023.

## Visiting Scholars



**Dr. Ariane M. Balizet**

Ariane M. Balizet is the author of *Shakespeare and Girls' Studies* (Routledge, 2019), which applies the interdisciplinary field of Girls' Studies to adaptations of Shakespeare in film, television, young adult literature, and web series. In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in Shakespeare, Shakespeare's afterlives, and Girls' Studies, she has taught workshops on these topics for secondary educators as part of AP summer institute sessions and Humanities Texas professional development programs.



**Dr. Vanessa I. Corredera**

Vanessa I. Corredera's research and pedagogy focuses on the intersections of race, adaptation/appropriation, popular culture, and performance. Her research has appeared in leading journals such as *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *The Journal of American Studies*, and *Borrowers and Lender*, and her monograph, "Speak of Me As I Am": *Othello in Post-Racial America*, is forthcoming in 2022 with Edinburgh University Press. She has led public-facing talks and workshops on Shakespeare and race (including pedagogy) for a number of institutions, including The Globe, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Lancaster University, and Iowa State University.



**Dr. Alexa Alice Joubin**

[Alexa Alice Joubin](#) teaches critical race, gender, film, and Shakespeare studies in the Departments of English, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Theatre, International Affairs, and East Asian Languages and Literatures at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where she serves as founding Co-director of the [Digital Humanities Institute](#). Inclusive social justice is a key component of her publications and teaching.



**Dr. Douglas M. Lanier**

Douglas Lanier is widely recognized as a pioneer in the study of modern appropriations of Shakespeare in all media. His book, *Shakespeare and Modern Popular Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2002), established the basic parameters of one of the liveliest fields in Shakespeare studies today. He followed up this work with an annotated catalogue of more than 900 Shakespeare spinoff films for *Shakespeares after Shakespeare*, ed. Richard Burt (Greenwood Press, 2005), a series of essays on Shakespearean appropriations of specific plays for the Sourcebooks Shakespeare editions, and contributions to *The Cambridge World Shakespeare Encyclopedia*. He has published widely on Renaissance authors (Shakespeare, Milton, Marston, Jonson) as well as on adaptation of Shakespeare worldwide in more than sixty articles in journals and collections, and he has recently completed two books, an edition of *Timon of Athens* for the New Kittredge series, and a monograph on *The*

Merchant of Venice for the Arden Language & Writing Series.



**Dr. Jesus Montañó**

Jesus Montañó is Associate Professor of English at Hope College. Latinx YA ❤️ Shakespeare: while the premise is straightforward, if a bit of a surprise given Shakespeare's role in assimilation and deficit thinking, the promise of such an engagement is that Shakespearean YA adaptations authored by writers of color have the potential to destabilize racism and other forms of oppression in which young readers may find themselves. This places Shakespeare as the chief engineer of a project meant to overthrow the injustices of the world. His connection to this project emanates from such possibilities, that literary transfiguration leads to societal transformation.

Transforming Shakespeare's Tragedies: Adaptation, Education, and Diversity has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed on this website do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES



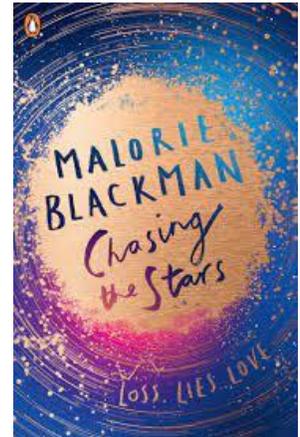
**UTAH  
SHAKESPEARE  
FESTIVAL**



# About

## What:

Our seminar is designed to help high school teachers integrate adaptations of Shakespeare's plays into their curricula, with an emphasis on *Hamlet* and *Othello*. Participants will study a variety of adaptations, including films, video games, graphic novels, stage performances, music, and young adult novels. We will emphasize diversity through pedagogical approaches that help students connect key Shakespearean themes (such as race, gender, and power) with their own lived experiences. In addition to pedagogy workshops and discussions facilitated by experts on Shakespearean adaptation, participants will also enjoy a workshop with professional actors and a play at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.



## Where:

Weber State University is located in Ogden, Utah. Situated along the Wasatch Mountains, Ogden offers breathtaking views, numerous hiking trails, a vibrant historic district and easy access to the Great Salt Lake and Salt Lake City. <https://www.visitogden.com/>



WSU's Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts and Humanities is home to excellent arts facilities, including the Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery <https://www.weber.edu/shawgallery> and the Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts <https://www.weber.edu/browningcenter>.

**Weber State University** is an open enrollment, public university, offering degrees ranging from associates to doctorates. Basing its mission on the core values of access, learning and community, WSU serves as an anchor institution within our diverse and vibrant region.



## Who:

**Georgia College** is the state's designated public liberal arts university, preparing students for professional advancement, lifelong intellectual pursuits, and informed participation in today's complex society. Named a 2021-22 College of Distinction, Georgia College emphasizes



transformative learning through student research, study abroad, internships, community service, and leadership opportunities.

**The Utah Shakespeare Festival** is a destination theatre that presents life-affirming classical and contemporary plays and musicals, in rotating repertory, and interactive experiences. The Festival has been honored with Emmy and Tony awards, and all productions are intended to entertain, educate, and enrich regional and national audiences.



**The National Endowment for the Humanities** supports research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This Institute is possible due to a generous grant from the NEH.



# Eligibility and Expectations

## Eligibility

We seek teachers from a variety of backgrounds, locations, institutions, and experience levels to participate in our summer workshop in 2022. Everyone who thinks they could benefit from the Institute is welcome to apply, from those who are new to the topic to those who are very familiar with Shakespeare's works and comfortable with developing lesson plans that focus on adaptation. The Institute is designed for English teachers of grades 9-12, but we are open to including teachers of other subjects or grade levels (for example, a middle-school drama teacher) if there is interest. Applicants should please indicate their interest in Shakespeare, their qualifications, and their level of experience in their application essays.

---

## Expectations

We will expect all participants to do a substantial amount of preparation before the residential Institute in Utah from July 10-27. Participants will receive copies of the Shakespeare plays and adaptations in advance. They will need to read and screen the adaptations before arriving in Utah, and they should be prepared to engage with content that explores contemporary questions about race, gender, sexual orientation, and identity. They will also begin preparing in advance for the teaching demonstrations they will give during the residential Institute in July. While the Institute will focus on Hamlet and Othello, participants will be free to develop teaching demos and lesson plans related to other Shakespeare plays if they choose. Two mandatory online sessions (June 11 and 25) will be held before arrival to begin the conversation and help participants prepare. There will also be a mandatory follow-up session on August 20.

NEH Summer Institute stipend recipients are expected to attend all meetings and devote full time to the activities for which the stipend was awarded during the announced period of the project. A stipend recipient may not accept a teaching assignment or undertake another major activity during the tenure of the award. **Those who, for any reason, do not complete the full tenure of the project will receive a reduced stipend.**

All NEH Summer Scholars are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This requires a respectful attitude toward fellow participants, faculty, guest lecturers, and others in all settings (program sessions, field trips, etc.). Please consult the NEH Principles of Civility, here: <https://www.neh.gov/grants/principles-civility>

All NEH Summer Scholars are required to evaluate their experience and report on their activities and accomplishments under the award. Participants will report at the end of the seminar or institute on online forms provided by the Endowment.

---

## COVID Vaccination

Weber State University will be requiring students to be vaccinated starting in the spring semester of 2022. The State of Utah does not allow mask requirements. For this institute, we will similarly require participants to be vaccinated and will follow CDC guidelines, which, at this time, recommend wearing masks when indoors even for those who are vaccinated. For more about WSU COVID practices and procedures: <https://www.weber.edu/coronavirus>